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Trust for Nature¹; National Australia Bank²

Beyond ecology to the economy: valuing private land conservation

Key words: Conservation Land Value

Abstract:

National Australia Bank and Trust for Nature commissioned world-leading natural capital valuation consultant, Trucost, to quantify the value that Trust for Nature's permanent protection programs provide. Increasingly, conservation organisations like Trust for Nature are seeking tools that allow them to describe the benefits of their work in economic as well as ecological terms. The pilot study by Trucost was Trust for Nature's first step in doing so.

For National Australia Bank, this study was part of its broader efforts to show that more sustainable agricultural approaches can deliver back real value to farmers and their investors. The Bank believes that only when natural capital is properly accounted for will farmers, investors and policy makers be able to make land use decisions based on data that reflects the true risks and rewards of their actions.

The pilot study valued the carbon sequestration, erosion control, waste treatment and extreme weather event moderation services provided by Trust for Nature's protected estate in three study areas across Victoria. Marnie and James will present the key findings of the study, how they plan to use the data, and the challenges they encountered along the way.